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Human Rights Council
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Agenda item 10
Technical assistance and capacity-building

Eritrea:* draft resolution

32/... Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in Eritrea

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant instruments on human rights,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant instruments on human rights to which they are party,

Reaffirming also that it is the primary responsibility of States to conduct investigations into allegations of violations and abuses of human rights, and to bring those responsible to justice,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007, in which the Council, inter alia, stressed the importance of ensuring universality, objectivity and non-selectivity in the consideration of human rights issues, and the elimination of double standards and politicization, and recognized that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Emphasizing the primacy of the universal periodic review process in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Welcoming the accession by Eritrea to most international and regional human rights instruments, including its recent signing of and accession to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the United Nations

* State not a member of the Human Rights Council.

Convention against Transnational Organized Crimes and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, and its continued engagement and submission of periodic reports to the relevant treaty bodies,

Noting the publishing of new civil and penal codes and their procedures, and the holding of awareness-raising campaigns for the public, government officials and law enforcement agencies on the provisions of the new codes,

Noting also the steps taken by Eritrea to create inter-sectoral coordinating mechanisms on implementing its commitments under the universal periodic review, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the conventions of the International Labour Organization, as well as with regard to the rights of persons with disabilities and addressing the challenges of irregular migration,

Noting with appreciation the active engagement of Eritrea in the universal periodic review process as well as the recently signed agreement with the United Nations in support of implementing the review recommendations and the mainstreaming of human rights in Eritrea,

Welcoming the engagement of Eritrea with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the areas of strengthening the judicial system, addressing the needs of persons with disabilities and enhancing access to clean water and sanitation,

Welcoming also the invitation extended by Eritrea to thematic mandate holders and treaty bodies to visit Eritrea,

Noting the formal request for support made by the Government of Eritrea to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen the criminal justice system, including the improvement of the penitentiary system,

Recognizing the efforts of the Government to provide affordable and quality health services and free education for its citizenry at all levels, and in particular its achievements with regard to the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting the launch by Eritrea of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage,

Encouraging the active role of the Government of Eritrea in combating irregular migration as well as human trafficking and smuggling in persons, including in the framework of the African Union-Horn of Africa Initiative, the European Union-led Khartoum Process and the Valletta Action Plan,

Recognizing the need to promote peace and security among countries in order to ensure sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Concerned by the content and recommendations contained in the second report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in Eritrea,[1]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in Eritrea;[1]

[1] A/HRC/32/47.

2. *Also takes note* of the response of the Government of Eritrea to the report of the commission of inquiry;[2]

3. *Recognizes* the development achievements of Eritrea and its increasing regional and international engagement, in particular its constructive engagement in human rights;

4. *Calls upon* the Government of Eritrea to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with its international obligations and commitments;

5. *Also calls upon* the Government of Eritrea to continue its cooperation with the Human Rights Council, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant bodies, including thematic mandate holders and the treaty bodies;

6. *Urges* the Government of Eritrea to expedite the implementation of the recommendations it accepted during its second universal periodic review, to submit a mid-term report and to enhance cooperation with the Human Rights Council and the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review during its third cycle;

7. *Also urges* the Government of Eritrea to investigate all allegations of human rights violations and abuse, and to bring those responsible to justice;

8. *Calls upon* the Government of Eritrea to ensure compliance with the penal, civil, criminal procedure and civil procedure codes of May 2015, and to ensure that they are consistent with international human rights standards with a view to strengthening the administration of justice and the rule of law;

9. *Acknowledges* the initiative of the Government of Eritrea to draft a new constitution, and urges it to ensure transparency and wide participation in the process, as well as conformity to universal human rights standards and the conventions to which Eritrea is a party;

10. *Calls upon* the Government of Eritrea to build upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and to embark upon the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

11. *Commends* the Government of Eritrea for its strong commitment to the promotion and protection of women's rights, and encourages it to take additional measures to promote economic and social empowerment, as well as to combat harmful practices, such as early marriage and female genital mutilation;

12. *Calls upon* the Government of Eritrea to continue its efforts to combat irregular migration and human trafficking, including through regional and international initiatives;

13. *Requests* the High Commissioner to expand and consolidate the ongoing engagement with Eritrea, and to initiate the implementation of technical support to strengthen national institutions, including civil society organizations;

14. *Requests* all Member States to support the cooperation agreement of May 2016 reached between the Government of Eritrea and the United Nations to mainstream human rights, focused on the development and promotion of social equality, social services for an adequate standard of living, liberties, the administration of justice, the Constitution and international cooperation;

[2] A/HRC/32/G/10.

15. *Decides* to support Eritrea to consolidate human rights through the universal periodic review process, the Office of the High Commissioner, thematic mandate holders and the treaty bodies.